Amendments to the specification

Page 1, lines 4-7, replace the text in its entirety with the following:

This application is a <u>Continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No.</u> 09/521,125 filed March 7, 2000, pending, which is a Continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/945,146 filed October 17, 1997, <u>abandoned</u>, which is the U.S. national phase of PCT/E96/00705 filed April 18, 1996, which claims priority to German patent application serial number 195 14 420.1 filed April 19, 1995